

## Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 132256Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8982

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS

SUBJECT: GOC UNCOVERING MIR ARSENALS

1. SUMMARY. GOC ANNOUNCED DISCOVERY THREE SANTIAGO MIR ARSENALS IN LAST WEEK. DESPITE CLAIM OF SOVIET ORIGIN, MANY WEAPONS ARE OBSOLETE U.S. MATERIEL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 12 GOC INTELLIGENCE UNITS DISCOVERED ARSENAL CONTAINING "OVER 40 AUTOMATIC WEAPONS" AND QUANTITIES OF GRENADES AND HOMEMADE BOMBS IN HIDDEN CELLAR UNDER MACHINE SHOP NEAR DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO. MACHINE SHOP ITSELF ALLEGEDLY USED TO MANUFACTURE SOME ARMS, BUT GOC IDENTIFIED BULK OF WEAPONS AS BEING OF "SOVIET AND CZECH MANUFACTURE."

3. REPORT STATES THAT THIS IS THIRD MIR ARSENAL FOUND IN SANTIAGO IN PAST WEEK. PERSONS CONNECTED WITH OVERT MACHINE SHOP OPERATION DETAINED, BUT ARSENAL ITSELF APPEARED UNUSED SINCE COUP, WITH ARMS STORED IN GREASE. GOC SAYS ARSENAL BUILT WITH URUGUAYAN TUPAMARO GUIDANCE, AND WITH CUBAN INVOLVEMENT WHICH OTHERWISE NOT EXPLAINED.

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4. STUDY OF NUMEROUS PHOTOS IN PRESS INDICATES FEATURED WEAPONS

ARE ONE 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLE AND ONE 30 CALIBER LIGHT MACHINE GUN, BOTH OBSOLTE US MILITARY EQUIPMENT. AMMUNITION CONTAINERS AND 57 RECOILLESS ROUNDS CLEARLY SHOW US MARKINGS. SUCH EQUIPMENT WAS SUPPLIED IN PAST TO CHILEAN ARMY. AMONG OTHER WEAPONS WE IDENTIFY SOME FILES OF SOVIET AK-47 TYPE AND VARIOUS US RIFLES AND CARBINES.

5. COMMENT. GEN PINOCHET SAID LAST FEB THAT ARSENAL FOUND JAN 30 WAS ONE OF AT LEAST 5 BELONGING TO MIR STILL HIDDEN IN SANTIAGO. WE HAD ONE CONFLICTING REPORT THAT JAN FIND WAS SOCIALIST CACHE, NOT MIR. (SEE REF. PP. 3-4) IN ANY EVENT GOC STILL WORKING HARD TO FIND ARMS OF POTENTIAL ACTIVE RESISTANCE GROUPS, AND WITH SOME SUCCESS.

6. PUBLICITY ON SUCH ARMS FINDS SINCE COUP HAS ALWAYS EMPHASIZED COMMUNIST BLOC ORIGIN, AND BOTH GOC AND FOREIGN OBSERVERS HAVE TENDED ACCEPT UNCRITICALLY IDEA THAT UNDEFINED "LARGE QUANTITIES

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OF SUCH SOVIET-DESIGNED ARMS WERE BROUGHT INTO CHILE DURING ALLENDE PERIOD. POSSIBLE OF COURSE THAT US MANUFACTURED ARMS IN HANDS OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES SINCE WW II AND KOREAN CONFLICTS COULD HAVE BEEN SENT TO CHILE. HOWEVER, SINCE INITIAL AND MUCH-PUBLICIZED FINDS OF SOVIET-DESIGNED ARMS JUST AFTER COUP IN LA MONEDA AND ALLENDE RESIDENCE, GREAT BULK OF WEAPONS DISPLAYED TO PRESS HAVE BEEN CIVILIAN-TYPE ARMS, MANY ANTIQUE, AND SMALL MIXED BAG OF FAIRLY MODERN MILITARY WEAPONS FROM BOTH COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. CHILEAN EXTREMIST GROUPS CLEARLY HAD AND MAY STILL HAVE FAIRLY IMPRESSIVE QUANTITY OF ARMS, BUT THERE IS STILL NOT CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE AS TO ACTUAL QUANTITY OR SOURCE OF THESE ARMS.

THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, PARAMILITARY FORCES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOC UNCOVERING MIR ARSENALS  
**TAGS:** PINS, CI, MIR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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